

and discussions with the government of Egypt. Unilateral actions will only harm relationships important to the American national interest.

In summary, Egypt has played and continues to play a key role in ensuring the success of the Middle East Peace Process. Equally important, Egypt has proven to be a staunch ally, willing to face danger to protect our shared interest in the region and to support us as our armed forces contribute to global stability. As such, I am supportive of the Committee's amendment to reinstall the earmark for assistance to Egypt.●

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION AND FLOW OF SOLID WASTE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask that the text of a letter from the Governors of Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, to the Chairman of the House Commerce Committee be printed in the RECORD.

The Governors correctly urge the House Commerce Committee to swiftly move forward on comprehensive legislation to provide states and local governments with the authority to regulate the interstate transportation and flow of solid waste.

Mr. President, the Senate has repeatedly passed such legislation and it is my hope that we will do so again before the end of this year. The majority leadership in the House has certainly given the impression that this important matter is not a priority item, despite the pleas for help from state and local governments around the country who are besieged by out-of-state waste or find their local waste management investments becoming increasingly uneconomical. I join with the Governors in urging the House Commerce Committee and the Congress to quickly pass legislation to provide more control over solid waste planning decisions to state and local governments.

The letter follows:

JULY 9, 1997.

Hon. THOMAS J. BLILEY, Jr.,
Chairman, The House Commerce Committee,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BLILEY: We are writing to urge you to move a comprehensive interstate waste and flow control bill this year. In recent conversations with Governor Voinovich, you encouraged our five states to reach an agreement on interstate waste provisions in order to move comprehensive legislation that will help both importing and exporting states.

We strongly believe that the lack of federal interstate waste and flow control legislation undermines states' abilities to implement environmentally sound waste disposal plans and to protect our own natural resources. Without federal authority to place reasonable limits on the amount of out-of-state wastes, states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Michigan have become dumping grounds for trash from other states. Without flow control, states like New Jersey are limited in their ability to manage effectively the disposal of municipal solid waste within their own borders, and would face an enormous financial liability.

In Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, where out-of-state waste imports are continuously and unreasonably high, citizens repeatedly ask why they should recycle in order to conserve disposal space for other states' waste. New Jersey has taken aggressive steps to try to manage all of its trash within its borders by the year 2000. New Jersey communities have acted responsibly to build disposal facilities to help meet that goal. However, if Congress fails to protect existing flow control authorities, repayment of the outstanding \$1.6 billion investment will be jeopardized.

We are deeply concerned that our efforts to make responsible decisions have been undermined by federal courts, have put potentially large financial burdens on our communities and have encouraged exporting states to pass their trash problems onto the backs of others. Our citizens are making sacrifices and they need assurances that we have the tools necessary to manage our own waste and limit imports from other states so that we have the space to handle our own garbage.

You have asked our five states to try to work through regional differences on interstate waste provisions that would allow an interstate waste and flow control bill to move forward. Last year, importing states and New Jersey were able to quickly reach a consensus on interstate waste provisions, provided that New Jersey receives flow control authority. We respectfully resubmit that agreement and urge prompt consideration by your committee and the House.

We support this package as a fair and reasonable compromise between importing and exporting states. It provides the ability for importing states to reduce the current amount of out-of-state waste and limit future interstate waste flows. States also would be able to place reasonable restrictions on construction and demolition debris. In addition, it gives local communities the ability to decide whether or not they want to accept other states' trash. And, communities would have reasonable ability to implement flow control authorities. While this package does not include everything that we would like, we believe it is a fair package that we can support without amendments.

Unfortunately, efforts to place reasonable restrictions on out-of-state waste shipment have been perceived by some as an attempt to ban all out-of-state trash. On the contrary, importing states—like Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania—are not asking for outright authority to prohibit all out-of-state waste, nor are we seeking to prohibit waste from any one state. We are asking for reasonable tools that will enable state and local governments to act responsibly to manage their own waste and limit unreasonable waste imports from other states. Such measures would give substantial authority to limit imports and plan facilities around our own states' needs.

Effective legislation is supported throughout the country. Twenty-four governors and the Western Governors' Association previously have written to you and the House leadership urging passage of effective legislation.

Thank you for your personal consideration of our agreement. We urge you to move forward with comprehensive interstate waste and flow control legislation this year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE V. VOINOVICH,
Governor of Ohio.

JOHN ENGLER,
Governor of Michigan.

TOM RIDGE,
Governor of Pennsylvania.

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN,
Governor of New Jersey.

FRANK O'BANNON,
Governor of Indiana.●

GENETIC DISCRIMINATION

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to address a critical issue that we, as a nation, must face—the fear of discrimination in health insurance practices based on our increasing ability to gather genetic information about ourselves and our families.

The tremendous advances in genetics research spawned by the Human Genome project are opening the door to a greater understanding of the underlying causes of human disease. The revolution in genetics is giving hope to millions of Americans that we will see eventual treatments, and ultimately cures, for some of the most devastating genetic diseases. Yet, our ability to predict what diseases individuals may be at risk for in the future has caused great concern that this powerful information—the information we all carry in our genes—may be used against us.

I am deeply troubled when I hear from the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition that genetic counselors are facing women every day who are afraid of the consequences of genetic testing. Women are avoiding genetic testing due to concerns about loss of health insurance coverage for themselves or their families—even though a genetic test might reveal that a woman is not at high risk and therefore allow her to make more informed health care choices.

As a physician and researcher, I am particularly concerned that the fear of discrimination will prevent individuals from participating in research studies or taking advantage of new genetic technologies to improve their medical care.

Scientific advances hold the promise of higher quality medical care, yet only Federal legislation can reassure the public that learning this information is safe. I was encouraged by President Clinton's recent press conference on genetic discrimination, July 14, 1997 which assisted in elevating this issue to the public's attention. While I am currently not a cosponsor of any specific legislative proposal, I am committed to developing a bipartisan legislative solution. I look forward to working with Senator JEFFORDS and my fellow colleagues on the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee—as well as Senators MACK, SNOWE, DOMENICI, and the many other Members who have been dedicated to this issue.

In my role as chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety, I strongly support the intent of legislation which would prohibit discrimination in health insurance against healthy individuals and their families based on their genetic information. We all carry genetic mutations that may place us at risk for future disease—therefore we are all at risk for discrimination. If I receive a genetic test which shows I am at risk for cancer, diabetes, or heart disease, should this